

EXHIBIT “A”

ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STUDENT HANDBOOK

OF

ACADEMIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

May 2006



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ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STUDENT HANDBOOK

MAY 2006

INTRODUCTION

Ross University publishes this handbook for the students in its School of Medicine.

Effective May 2006, all rules and regulations in this *Handbook* are binding upon all students enrolled in the School of Medicine, including students on academic leave of absence from the school and students who are visiting at other medical schools. **This edition supersedes all previous editions of the *Student Handbook* and, when appropriate, updates the *Ross University School of Medicine Catalog*.**

Students are expected to be familiar with the content of both this *Handbook* and the *Catalog* of the School of Medicine. Those students who receive financial aid are expected to have read *Ways & Means of Financial Aid*, which has previously been supplied. Only general aspects of financial aid are included here.

Ross University reserves the right to change its rules and regulations, course offerings, degree requirements, academic calendar and other material contained in this *Handbook* or the *Catalog* at any time. Such changes will be announced in advance of their effective dates whenever possible; and will be disseminated via email and posted on the campus website.

CHANGES IN THIS EDITION

There have been changes incorporated throughout this *Handbook*. Students are responsible to make note of all changes in policy, and will be held to the rules outlined in this handbook.

THE CURRICULUM

THE DEGREE "DOCTOR OF MEDICINE"

The degree *Doctor of Medicine* is awarded upon the successful completion of the Basic Science curriculum, the Clinical Science curriculum, and the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Steps 1 and 2. Step 2 of the USMLE now consists of two examinations the Clinical Knowledge (CK) exam (formerly Step 2) and a Clinical Skills (CS) exam (formerly the Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA)). These will be referred to as Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS throughout this handbook.

The Basic Science segment consists of 60 credits of specifically prescribed coursework. There are four semesters of Basic Science classes, for a total of two academic years. All Basic Science coursework is offered on the School of Medicine campus (located at Portsmouth, in the Commonwealth of Dominica) and must be satisfactorily completed there. The hours, credits, and credit limitations are strictly prescribed. Deviation from these standards may jeopardize a student's eligibility for licensure in the United States. Basic Science students taking 10 semester credit hours are considered full-time; students who are taking less than 12 semester credit hours (see *Remedial Semesters* under Promotions Policy) may not satisfy enrollment requirements of sponsoring organizations, outside health insurance plans, and other related services.

The Clinical Science curriculum consists of 90 weeks of clinical training. It begins with an introductory clinical segment of 12 weeks, the course "Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine"(AICM). This segment provides training in the basic clinical skills combined with an introduction to the pathophysiology of major disease processes, and is conducted in clinical facilities, in the U.S.

The remaining 78 weeks consist of 48 weeks of required ("core") clerkships and 30 weeks of elective clerkships as described in the *Catalog*. During this time, the student participates in patient care while rotating through various medical specialties in affiliated teaching hospitals and other approved health care facilities, in the United States. Clinical clerkships are performed under the guidance of clinical faculty, the Dean of Clinical Sciences and Student Affairs and the Executive Dean and under the general supervision of the School of Medicine's Dean of Clinical Sciences.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE, PROMOTIONS

All academic matters, including grading policies and academic standards, while students are pursuing the Basic Science portion of the curriculum (the first two academic years), are within the purview of the School's Promotions Committee. This committee acts within the framework of the policies set forth herein. It is a faculty committee, whose recommendations are transmitted to the Dean. The decision of the Dean is final.

STUDENT GRADING AND PROMOTIONS POLICIES

GRADING POLICY FOR THE BASIC SCIENCE SEGMENT

The aim of the policy is to establish a minimum acceptable performance that a student must achieve that does not depend on the performance of the entire class. A Minimum Passing Score (MPS) is established that must be achieved for a passing (C) grade. A well-established method (the "Hofstee" method) will be used to determine the MPS.

The Hofstee method utilizes the class performance but also sets a Minimum Passing Score (MPS) that is derived from the lower group of scores within a defined range. The range for the MPS to be used is between 55% and 65%. Therefore, students that enrolled after May 2004 scoring below 55% will have failing scores and those scoring above 65% will have passing scores. Students with scores between 55% and 65% have marginal performance that may result in course failure

depending on the performance among the lowest performing group of students (in the range of 55% and 65%).

Recorded grades will be on an A (80 and higher), B (70-80), C (MPS-69), F (below MPS).

The percentage contribution to the final course score from each of the interim (mini) exams and other course evaluations will be announced by each course in advance. The final course score will include the student's score on a NBME subject examination (taken at the end of the course). The final course score weight from the NBME subject exams will be announced by each course director in advance.

GRADES

Grades are interpreted as follows:

A	80-100	4.00
B	70-80	3.00
C	MPS-69	2.00
F	Failing	0.00
W	Withdrawn Before Interim Exams	0.00
WP	Withdrawn Passing	0.00
WF	Withdrawn Failing	0.00
I	Incomplete	0.00
SP	Satisfactory Progress	0.00
UP	Unsatisfactory Progress	0.00

Withdrawal from a single course during a semester is not permitted.

A student electing to withdraw from the School prior to the time of the first examinations will receive grades of **W** on his/her transcript. Those leaving after taking one or more interim examinations will receive **WP** (withdrawn passing) grades or **WF** (withdrawn failing), based on their performance in the examination(s) taken.

A student that is granted an emergency absence resulting in an Academic Leave of Absence prior to the time of the first exam will receive grades of **W**. Those leaving after taking one or more interim examinations will receive **WP** (withdrawn passing) grades or **WF** (withdrawn failing), based on their performance in the examination(s) taken.

An **I** (Incomplete) grade is entered when a student is advanced, pending completion of a requirement of a course, as defined by the course director. In this case, the outstanding requirement must be completed the following semester and the **I** will be changed into a grade. Failure to do so will result in a grade of **F** being entered to replace the **I**.

Students, who maintain grades of **A** in all courses in two successive semesters, will qualify for the **Dean's List**. They will remain on the **Dean's List** as long as they do not receive a grade below **B** in subsequent semesters. The **Dean's List** will be posted at the beginning of every semester, as soon the grades are available from the previous semester. This applies for semesters 2-4.

Students with a grade point average, during basic sciences of 4.0 are designated as *Distinguished Scholars*. The *Honor Roll* recognizes students who receive all A's in the first semester.

EXAMINATIONS

BASIC SCIENCE SEGMENT

Examinations are generally in the single-best answer or extended matching format. In certain courses, there are assignments and/or practical examinations that contribute to the course grade. All courses also have a number of mid-term exams that contribute to the course grade. All examinations in the Basic Science segment must be taken on the Portsmouth campus, except that clinical practical examinations may be given in the Princess Margaret Hospital (Ross facility).

Students are expected to be at their assigned seat five minutes prior to the beginning of an examination. Students that arrive to the examination room once the proctor has begun giving instructions will be denied entry and receive a mark of 0 in the examination. Mid-term examinations that are missed for a valid reason may be "made up" by weighting the other examinations in the course. In order to be excused the student must present valid documentation prior to the initiation of the examination. The determination of a valid reason shall be approved by the Executive Dean, or the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs or their designee and must include appropriate documentation that would qualify the student for an emergency absence described below. An examination missed without approved documentation will be assigned a grade of zero.

A final examination, which is missed for any reason(s), cannot be "made-up". Any student who misses a final examination will have a grade of F reported to the Registrar for that course unless the student is on an approved emergency absence. In that case, the grade of I (Incomplete) will be recorded and the student must take that examination at the end of the following semester.

NBME COMPREHENSIVE BASIC SCIENCE EXAMINATION

All students are required to take the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Examination at the end of their fourth semester in Dominica. Students must obtain a passing score (as determined by the NBME) prior to being certified to take Step 1 of the USMLE. A student who fails to obtain a passing score on the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Examination after their 4th semester in Dominica will be required to re-take it at the completion of their Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine (AICM) course in Miami, Florida. Obtaining a passing grade on the NBME Comprehensive Basic Sciences Examination is mandatory prior to certification for the USMLE Step 1. Students will be given three opportunities to obtain a passing grade on the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Examination. Students who fail to obtain a passing score on the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Examination within three attempts are subject to dismissal.

PROMOTIONS POLICIES

BASIC SCIENCE SEGMENT

As a result of the new integrated curriculum for 1st and 2nd semester and 3rd and 4th semester, it was necessary to adjust the promotion policies to reflect that at the completion of 1st and 3rd semester, the content of a given discipline has only been covered partially.

These new policies were implemented for the semester beginning in May 2005 and are as follows:

- Students passing a course will receive a temporary grade SP (Satisfactory Progress) that will convert to a final grade (A, B, C, F) at the completion of the 2nd and 4th semester
- Students failing one or two courses with a minimum of 50% raw score will be given the option to advance to semester 2 or semester 4 with a UP (Unsatisfactory Progress) or, repeat the semester on probation.
- At the completion of the 2nd and 4th semester, students with UP must reverse the UP to a passing grade.
- Students who receive less than a 50% raw score in one or two courses, such that the possibility of a passing score was near impossible will be allowed to repeat semester 1 or 3 on probation before being allowed to advance to semester 2 or 4.
- Students in semester 1, 2, 3 or 4 who achieve scores, lower than MPS in three or more courses will be recommended for dismissal. These students, if allowed to repeat, must repeat the semester on probation before being allowed to advance to the next semester.
- The Promotions Committee will review the final grades of students in the above categories, after the course directors have reviewed the grades, and make a recommendation to the Executive Dean as to whether these students can be promoted to the next semester.
- The grades in semesters 1 and 3 will represent 45% of the final grade and grades in semesters 2 and 4 will represent 55% of the total grade.
- Students must complete all Basic Medical Sciences in no more than 6 semesters. Thus, a student can only repeat two semesters of the Basic Sciences.
- At the completion of semester 2 and 4, students who fail one or two courses will have their grades reviewed by the Promotions Committee to determine if the student must repeat only semester 2 or 4, or repeat semesters 1 and 2 or 3 and 4.
- Students must pay tuition for all courses taken.

Students are **subject to dismissal** if they:

- Fail three or more courses in a semester. (This applies to all four semesters.)
- Fail any course in a Remedial Semester.
- Are, or will be, unable to complete the four-semester Basic Science segment in no more than six semesters (including regular and Remedial Semesters).
- Fail any course after they have previously completed two Remedial Semesters.

- Fail the Comprehensive NBME in three attempts
- Fail USMLE step2 in three attempts
- Fail to abide by university policies set forth
- Fail to pass the USMLE Step 1 in three attempts and within one year after they become eligible to take this exam.

In order to be eligible to begin clinical core clerkship rotations, students must meet all of the following pre-requisites:

- Successfully complete all the requirements of the Basic Science Coursework.
- Complete successfully the course “Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine” offered at the beginning of the Clinical Science segment.
- Pass the USMLE Step 1 (see below).

CLINICAL SCIENCE SEGMENT

The Clinical Science Curriculum begins with the “Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine” (AICM) course. All students are required to take the USMLE Step 1 for the first time within 6 months of becoming eligible. Failure to do so will subject the student to be dismissed.

Following the 12-week AICM, there is a 17-week scheduled break during which students remain fully enrolled. (Aside from a private “Extra” loan for live board review course fees, students are ineligible for financial aid during this period.) Some students will use this time preparing for, taking, and passing USMLE Step 1. Students who have already passed Step 1 may begin clinical clerkships at any time during this period. Students who have not received passing scores and have not started clinical clerkship within that period may still preserve their “in-school” student loan deferment status by applying for an **academic leave of absence** extending up to 180 days from the last day of the AICM. Beyond this timeframe, students who have not resumed clinical training fall into repayment status on their student loans and must be reported as withdrawn, for most purposes, to outside agencies.

Passing the AICM course and USMLE Step 1 are required for continuation into clinical clerkships. During the remainder of the Clinical Science curriculum, all students must take and pass all the required core and elective clinical clerkships. In addition to the 12 weeks of the AICM course, the School requires 48 weeks of core clerkships and 30 weeks of electives, for a total of 90 weeks of clinical training. These requirements are however, subject to change in the future, depending on regulatory and other academic requirements.

A final examination is given at the end of each clerkship. Students are also required to pass the USMLE Steps 1, 2 CK and Step 2 CS licensure examinations (see below).

- If a student fails a core clerkship, the student must repeat that same clerkship before being allowed to continue in the program.
- If a student fails an elective clerkship, that student must repeat successfully either the same elective, or another elective involving the same number of weeks as the failed elective.
- Students with a repeated failure in core subjects or in electives are subject to dismissal.
- Passing the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) examinations are required for graduation.
- Eligibility to take the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) requires completion of a minimum of 45 weeks of clinical training (including the 12-week AICM and the Internal Medicine core clerkship). This examination must be passed in no more than three attempts. A minimum of 36 weeks of core clerkships and be within 12 months of graduation is required before taking the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS).
- The entire clinical segment, currently 90 weeks, must be successfully completed within 120 weeks of attendance.

GOOD STANDING AND SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Good Standing: The University reserves the right to withhold services, transcripts and certifications from students who are not in good standing. Students maintain good standing by complying with all academic rules and regulations, and remaining current in all **financial obligations**.

Satisfactory Academic Progress: Satisfactory Academic Progress represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specified time periods. It is used in both academic evaluation and determination of financial aid eligibility.

Students maintain *satisfactory academic progress* by meeting the requirements listed under "Promotions Policies."

- Completing the required courses of the Basic Science Curriculum of the first two academic years (four semesters) in no more than 6 semesters of attendance.
- Passing all coursework during probationary (remedial) semesters.
- Passing the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam in no more than three attempts, taken within a year after completing the Basic Science segment.
- Taking the USMLE Step 1 within six months after becoming eligible.
- Passing the USMLE Step 1 in no more than three attempts, and within one year after becoming eligible.
- Completing the 90-week Clinical Science segment in no more than 120 weeks of attendance.

- Completing the entire Doctor of Medicine Program in no more than 210 weeks (4 calendar years) of attendance.
- Passing the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) in no more than three attempts.

Note: All of the above items refer to actual attendance in regular or Remedial Semesters, as well as actual weeks of attendance in the clinical training segment. They do not include periods when the student is on an academic leave of absence (ALOA) for preparation and time needed to schedule to take the two national examinations (USMLE Steps 1, 2CK & 2CS), the time of regularly scheduled breaks between semesters, or while pending assignment to a scheduled clinical clerkship. Also excluded are emergency ALOA's. (See section on *Emergency Leaves*.)

A semester during which an emergency leave of absence is taken, or in which the student withdraws prior to the end of Week 2 of the semester, will not be counted toward the limit for meeting the above requirements.

Students who do not meet the standards for *Satisfactory Academic Progress* are subject to dismissal. However, in the case of very unusual circumstances, the Promotions Committee may determine, on an individual basis, that a student may continue in the School for one semester (on probation).

PROBATION

Students may be placed on academic probation for academic or behavioral "non-cognitive" issues.

"Academic Probation" is based on course work and professional behavior and recommended by the Promotions Committee to the Executive Dean.

Students are on academic probation while they are repeating basic science courses in Remedial Semesters or clinical training periods. Students on academic probation are also placed on financial aid probation for one semester. During this probationary semester, students may obtain financial aid. If they are not removed from probationary status the following semester, they will be ineligible to obtain any aid. Additional detailed information regarding financial aid eligibility is provided in the University publication, *Ways & Means of Financial Aid*.

This being a professional school, professional behavior is as important as is academic performance. Students may be placed on academic probation for "non-cognitive" or behavioral problems at the recommendation of the Grievance Committee or the Honor Council with concurrence of the Grievance Committee with the approval of the Executive Dean. This academic probation is based on a student's behavior violating one of the requirements in the Student Handbook. Students may be requested by the Grievance Committee to undergo a physical or psychological examination as well as other associated assessments.

ATTENDANCE

In the Basic Science segment of the curriculum, students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, lectures, conferences, laboratory sessions/exercises, and examinations. Unexcused absences may adversely affect the final grade in a course. In order to successfully pass the Problem-based Learning (PBL) program a student must attend and participate in the required number of sessions. Failure to do so may result in failure in the course or courses involved in the PBL case. In some courses, especially those in which specific sequential skills are learned, if a student does not attend all sessions, arrangements must be made with the course director to make up the missed sessions. Failure to take an exam results in a grade of zero in that exam.

In the Clinical training period, students are required to be in attendance 100% of the time. Also, students must be in compliance with any specific rules and regulations mandated by the hospitals where they are completing their clerkships.

Any unauthorized absence or failure to report to a clinical clerkship will be grounds for dismissal. In addition, the student will receive a grade of F for that clerkship.

Ross University School of Medicine is non-sectarian, and as such does not close for the religious holidays of any specific denomination or group. Students who miss classes or laboratories for any reason will be responsible for the content of all missed course work. Examinations that are scheduled to occur on religious holidays will not be rescheduled and no accommodation will be made.

LICENSURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE U.S.

In order to be licensed and practice medicine in the United States, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) requires students to take and pass the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) Step 1, Step 2CK and Step 2CS (See www.ecfm.org.)

Ross University School of Medicine students and graduates are eligible to sit for these exams. The USMLE has three Steps, the first two of which are taken by students while in medical school. Passing Steps 1, 2CK (Step 2 Clinical Knowledge) and 2CS (Step 2 Clinical Skills) of the USMLE, is required for graduation.

Students must have their applications for these exams certified by the University Registrar's Office in New Jersey, before the exams are taken. See section below on "Certification For The USMLE Examinations."

Step 3 of the USMLE, the final step for licensing, is taken after graduation, during, or at the conclusion of residency training.

Information regarding the examinations may be obtained from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-2685. Telephone: (215) 386-5900; Fax: (215) 387-9196; Website: www.ecfm.org

Certification by the ECFMG is required for entrance to residency training and licensure.

POLICY REGARDING UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION (USMLE), STEPS 1 & 2

The University has adopted the following policy regarding the United States Medical Licensing Examination:

THE USMLE STEP 1

The School of Medicine uses the USMLE Step 1 as one criteria of a student's overall knowledge necessary for entering into clinical clerkships.

Students become eligible to take the USMLE Step 1 when they have passed all courses in the Basic Science Curriculum, successfully completed the Advanced Integration to Clinical Medicine clerkship, and, have passed the NBME Comprehensive Basic Sciences Exam.

Students are required to sit for the USMLE Step 1 examination for the first time within 6 months after becoming eligible. Failing to do so will result in the student's administrative withdrawal from the school of medicine. Additionally, students cannot sit for the exam while on an approved Leave of Absence.

Students are required to take and pass the USMLE Step 1 in no more than three attempts, **and within one calendar year of becoming eligible.**

Students who do not pass the USMLE Step 1 in three attempts within a year after becoming eligible are dismissed from the School of Medicine. Such students may apply for readmission. If granted such readmission, additional preparation courses taken in Dominica may be recommended.

Those who receive very low scores on the USMLE in the first or second attempts may be required to repeat certain parts of the curriculum before they can be certified for another attempt. This will also depend on the time that has elapsed since they became eligible. These students are **not** eligible for financial aid.

Passing Step 1 is required by the University to proceed to the core clinical clerkships of the curriculum.

THE USMLE STEP 2 CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE (Step 2 CK)

The USMLE Step 2 CK assesses whether the student is able to apply the medical knowledge and understanding of clinical science considered essential for the provision of patient care under supervision, including emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention. Step 2 CK of the USMLE is taken in the clerkship years, after completion of the required clinical training. Passing Steps 1 and 2 CK and CS (Clinical Skills) of the USMLE are requirements for graduation and acceptance into residency training.

Students are eligible to be certified to take the USMLE Step 2 CK provided that the student has completed a minimum of 45 weeks of clinical training, which must include the Internal Medicine core clerkship and is within 12 months of graduation.

Students must pass Step 2 CK in a maximum of three attempts, and within two calendar years of becoming eligible, in order to receive the Doctor of Medicine degree from Ross University School of Medicine.

Students requesting a LOA to prepare for Step 2 CK will be allowed a period of time not to exceed 6 (six) weeks.

THE USMLE STEP 2 CLINICAL SKILLS (Step 2 CS)

The Step 2 CS is taken during the final year of medical studies. The Step 2 CS assesses whether an examinee can obtain a relevant medical history, perform a physical examination of a patient, and compose a written record of the experience. It includes an evaluation of the examinee's ability to communicate effectively in the English language.

To be certified to take the Step 2 CS, students must have completed 32 weeks of core clinical clerkships, which must include Internal Medicine, and must be scheduled for at least 36 weeks of core clerkships and be within 12 months of graduation.

CERTIFICATION FOR THE USMLE

Applications for the USMLE Steps 1 and 2 CK and CS, are available online from www.ecfm.org.

To be certified, a student must be in *good standing* and must have met all of his/her financial obligations to the University. All students requesting re-certification, in order to take this examination a second or third time, must submit to the University Registrar's Office a copy (both sides) of the USMLE score report for the previously taken examination. Students should normally re-take these examinations as soon as they are again eligible. However, the Dean of Clinical Sciences will, upon receiving documentation of a failing score on either Step 1, Step 2 CK or CS, review the student's performance to determine whether there is a need for remedial work before the student re-takes the examination.

Students who pass the USMLE Step 1 and are requesting placement in clinical clerkships **must** also submit a copy of the score report, along with the performance profile to the University Registrar's Office. Verbal statements or incomplete reports are not acceptable.

Students who are administratively withdrawn, and have not passed the USMLE on their first or second attempts, may request to be sponsored to take or re-take the USMLE through the University through a process of reapplication made through the University Admissions Office. Such requests for sponsorship will be reviewed individually, and may include certain conditions for approval.

Sponsorship for taking or re-taking the USMLE, within a specified period of time, will be provided to those who meet certain criteria (see below). Students will not be reinstated into active status until they pass the USMLE and begin their clinical clerkships.

Evaluations for sponsorship will include, but are not limited to:

- a) The time that has elapsed between when they are eligible and when the USMLE is taken for the first time;
- b) The USMLE scores received in prior attempts; and
- c) Related items dealing with the student's activities during the interim period.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, ETHICS

Ross University School of Medicine expects its students to adhere to the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior in every aspect of their lives, as expected of medical professionals. Students shall conduct all aspects of their lives with honesty, integrity, and respect for others. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the School.

Cheating (whether on examinations or with laboratory data), stealing (whether from the Library or from fellow students), and plagiarism will not be tolerated and can lead to expulsion from the school.

A student found cheating on an examination receives a grade of zero for that examination, and is subject to dismissal from the School.

All students must bring the official RUSM identification card to all exams. If a student suspects a fellow student of cheating during an exam, the student should discreetly alert an exam proctor. No bags or books may be brought into the examination room. Final and make-up examinations must be returned and they may not be removed from the examination room. If a student is ill and unable to attend the exam, he/she must produce a doctor's letter and inform the course director or the administration at the earliest opportunity.

Medical students shall demonstrate professional behavior that would be expected of a physician, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Being truthful in carrying out educational and clinical responsibilities, never falsifying information or purposefully misrepresenting a situation;
- (b) Being punctual, reliable, and conscientious, in fulfilling professional duties;
- (c) Maintaining confidentiality of information concerning patients, and refraining from discussing cases, except under appropriate circumstances;
- (d) Not participating in patient care under circumstances in which they are under the influence of any substance, or other condition, which might impair their ability to function;

- (e) Maintaining professional hygiene, demeanor, and appearance when in a patient care setting;
- (f) Accepting the responsibility to review plans or directives for patient care with the attending physician if the student, after careful consideration, believes that these plans or directives are not in the best interest of the patient;
- (g) Clearly identifying him/herself as a medical student in patient care settings, and respecting civil laws, hospital rules, and University rules governing the conduct of students;
- (h) when students are on campus or participating in RUSM activities they must at all times display their Ross University I.D. cards;
- (i) Not be in possession of alcoholic beverages, knives, switchblades, firearms or illicit drugs when on University grounds or involved in RUSM sponsored activities;
- (j) Showing compassion and respect for themselves, their colleagues, faculty, and patients who participate in their education.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment undermines the character and purpose of the University. Sexual harassment includes unwelcomed sexual advances, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature and inappropriate sexualization of the working environment with words, materials or behavior. It may involve women being harassed by men, men being harassed by women or harassment between persons of the same sex. Sexual harassment is subject to disciplinary action within the University community. Charges of sexual harassment can be filed by following the University's established grievance procedures for students, faculty, and staff.

PROBLEMS, GRIEVANCES

Assistance with a variety of concerns and problems is available to students on the campus in Dominica. Students are free to discuss academic problems with their professors, faculty advisors, course director, department heads, and the assistant/associate deans of Student Affairs. All professors publish times when they are available in their respective offices.

Counseling service is available for students experiencing academic or personal difficulties. The School's Behavioral Science Department operates this service. Representatives of most major religions are also available in Dominica.

All students and faculty members have the right to present grievances to the *Grievance Committee*.

The **Grievance Committee** consists of faculty and student representatives. It can also advise students and make recommendations to the administration. The **Grievance Committee** is the investigative and judicial arm of the Dean's Office, and its authority is derived from that office. The **Grievance Committee** has authority over all matters referred by the Executive Dean, the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, the Student Government Association, and any individual student or faculty member, including, but not limited to, violations of the professional conduct standards. All decisions and reports go to the Executive Dean and the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs for review, and by copy to the initiating source. The final decision is that of the Executive Dean will be copied to the President.

Any non-academic recommendation made by the **Grievance Committee**, and executed by the Dean to suspend or terminate a student from Ross University School of Medicine may be appealed to the Office of the President. The President and at least one other member of the administration, appointed by the President, hear the appeal of the Dean's decision. The student can be represented by counsel, and has the right to present witnesses and documentary evidence. The student can choose to present his/her appeal in writing, by telephone, or through an in-person hearing. A student who wishes to appeal a determination of the **Grievance Committee** must give written notice of intent to appeal to the Office of the President within ten days of receiving the Dean's decision, based upon the report from the **Grievance Committee**.

REGISTRATION AND OTHER REGISTRAR SERVICES

INITIAL REGISTRATION OF INCOMING STUDENTS

Students enrolled in the Basic Science courses **must register in person** each semester before classes begin, and must present their passports on campus at that time, in order to receive their official RUSM identification. Students registering late without satisfactory documentation are charged a **late registration fee** of US\$100 daily. (This fee is not retained by the University but credited to the Student Government Fund). No unregistered student will be admitted to classes. Registration for Basic Science courses is conducted on the campus in Dominica. The official Registrar's records, however, are maintained in the University's central offices in New Jersey.

Any specified documentation upon which the student's admission is contingent must be submitted to the University Registrar by the end of that semester. If essential documentation remains missing, the student will not be permitted to attend the subsequent semester, and will be administratively withdrawn.

MCAT scores are required as part of the Admission requirements and will be used in conjunction with other information required for admission to RUSM.

Tuition and fees are generally due approximately 15 days before the start of classes. For students receiving financial aid, tuition is deferred until an in-person registration occurs. At that point, only students with approved financial aid and/or those sponsored by a Ross recognized third-party payer will be allowed to register unless approval is granted by the University Bursar.

In such cases, it is expected that the student complete a promissory note and remit payment within 30 days from the beginning of the semester. Late payments are subject to a \$75.00 late fee and the student may also be considered for an administrative withdrawal based on non-payment as indicated on the terms and conditions of the promissory note. Furthermore, the student will not receive any credit for that semester.

REGISTRATION OF CONTINUING STUDENTS

Continuing students in the Basic Sciences **must register in person** on campus at the beginning of each semester and must present at that time the official RUSM identification card, to ensure proper identification. There is a charge of US\$25 to replace a lost ID card.

Students who are unavoidably late returning from break must:

1. Notify the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs and the Campus Registrar in writing **before** the registration date and, **upon** their return, present valid documentation that is satisfactory to the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs. Fax communication is acceptable. Faxes may be sent to 1-767-445-3276.
2. Students registering late without satisfactory documentation are charged a **late registration fee** of US\$100 daily. (This fee is not retained by the University but credited to the Student Government Fund.)
3. Students arriving on campus after the end of the registration period established for each semester will not be permitted to register for that semester. Any financial aid disbursements received by the University will be returned to the lender.

Tuition and fees are generally due approximately 15 days before the start of classes. For students receiving financial aid, tuition is deferred until an in-person registration occurs. At that point, only students with approved financial aid and/or those sponsored by a Ross recognized third-party payer will be allowed to register unless approval is granted by the University Bursar.

In such cases, it is expected that the student complete a promissory note and remit payment within 30 days from the beginning of the semester. Late payments are subject to a \$75.00 late fee and the student may also be considered for an administrative withdrawal based on non-payment as indicated on the terms and conditions of the promissory note. Furthermore, the student will not receive any credit for that semester.

REGISTRATION – CLINICAL SCIENCE SEGMENT

Students in the clinical phase of the curriculum register through the Office of the Dean of Clinical Sciences in New Jersey. This includes the introductory clinical semester.

Once students have successfully completed the AICM course, have passed the USMLE Step 1, have submitted documentation of their scores to the University Registrar (copies of both sides of the USMLE report), and have received financial clearance from the University Bursar, they will be assigned to clinical clerkships by the Office of the Dean of Clinical Sciences

The University has a responsibility to place students in their individual clinical clerkships. Solely the Office of the Dean of Clinical Sciences makes this determination. All students are required to report to the clerkships to which they are assigned.

In general, clerkship programs will be taken according to a pre-arranged schedule. Students will be notified of their entry into a given program via written confirmation from the Office of the Dean of Clinical Sciences.

Students in the Clinical Science curriculum register for an academic year (two semesters, each encompassing 15 weeks of clerkships.) Clerkship schedules will be issued to students in blocks of at least 30 weeks of clerkship assignments. Students who decline their clerkship schedule must sit out for a semester (4 months) before reassignment will be provided. Failure to attend a scheduled clinical clerkship is grounds for dismissal from the School and an F will be posted on the transcript for that clerkship.

Students performing clerkships are considered enrolled full-time, provided they are scheduled for a minimum of 12 weeks. The calendar period in which fifteen weeks of clerkships are completed defines the semester for that student.

Students who are about to begin or are continuing in the clerkship program should consult the Clinical Clerkship Program Guidelines published by the Office of the Dean of Clinical Sciences for more detailed information.

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Official transcripts are requested from and provided by the University Registrar in New Jersey. Students may obtain a transcript request form from the Campus Registrar or online at www.rossmed.edu. The Campus Registrar will forward requests to the New Jersey office. Requests cannot be taken over the telephone or via e-mail. Students in the Basic Science segment will receive a grade report when received in Dominica. Transcripts are not released until all financial obligations to the University have been met and any missing administrative documents have been received.

STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT PROCESS

If you have previously attended another school and received financial aid in the form of student loans, and wish to defer repayment of your student loans using a form from your lender, please see the Campus Registrar for instructions. Loans cannot be deferred during curriculum gap periods of 30 days or longer.

TUITION DURING REMEDIAL SEMESTERS

Full tuition is charged for students registered full-time (12 or more credits). Prorated tuition is charged during Remedial Semesters for students who are remediating less than 12 credit hours of coursework.

Any reduction in course load will impact the total financial aid that the student receives, based on government regulations and financial aid policies.

TUITION REFUND POLICY FOR WITHDRAWALS

A withdrawal occurs when a student's enrollment is permanently discontinued or, in some cases, even temporarily interrupted (see **Note** below). A withdrawal may be official (when the student notifies the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs in writing) or unofficial (without written notification). The effective date of withdrawal is normally the student's last date of attendance.

If a student withdraws, Ross University's handling of tuition corresponds with Federal loan entitlement regulations, which are based on the period attended:

- If a new student withdraws prior to the start of the first semester, no tuition charges are due; however, acceptance deposits are forfeited.
- If a continuing student withdraws prior to the start of a semester, no tuition charges are due.
- If a student withdraws during the first 60% of a semester, tuition charges are directly prorated based on the portion of the semester that has elapsed. (As semesters are normally 15 weeks in length, tuition is prorated for withdrawals during weeks 1 through 9.)
- If a student withdraws after the first 60% (i.e., after completing the 9th week) of a semester, the full tuition charges remain due.

For withdrawal during the first 60% of a semester, as per Federal regulations, student loan entitlement is recalculated, and Ross University and the student are each proportionally responsible for returning "unearned" financial aid to the relevant lender(s). In addition to the lender returns required by Federal regulations, Ross University returns any remaining credit balance to lenders, which decreases the student's loan debt for that semester.

Note: Although a leave of absence may be authorized in limited circumstances, failure to return to school from a leave of absence is considered a withdrawal as of the last date of attendance. Please note that a leave of absence and an academic leave of absence are two different statuses. (For an explanation of an academic leave of absence, refer to the section on academic policies.) Additionally, under federal regulations, a leave of absence must be requested and approved in advance, may not exceed 180 days, and may not be granted within 12 months of a previous leave of absence. An interruption of enrollment status that does not qualify as a leave of absence is considered a withdrawal as of the last date of attendance.

See section above regarding policy on enrollment status for taking the USMLE. (Pages 13-15)

EMERGENCY ABSENCES, VACATION & ACADEMIC LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The School of Medicine curriculum is designed to be a series of integrated, consecutively scheduled learning experiences. Interruptions of the educational program are academically undesirable and are of concern to medical licensure boards; they also can affect financial aid eligibility and loan repayment status. Emergency absences are granted only under extraordinary and well-documented circumstances.

Students are advised to consult with the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs or the Dean of Clinical Sciences, as appropriate, to discuss their plans for any interruption of their studies and its academic impact. Those receiving student loans must also contact the Financial Aid Office; additional information is provided in the University publication *Ways & Means of Financial Aid*.

During the clinical semesters students must also abide by the policies and procedures of the institutions they are attending. Short breaks due to scheduling constraints may occur between clinical clerkships. Such breaks, if not exceeding four weeks have no impact on the student's enrollment status. (Consult the Financial Aid Office publication, *Ways & Means of Financial Aid*, for information about loan disbursements in the event of longer gaps.)

EMERGENCY ABSENCES

Students may have unavoidable, non-academic reasons for interrupting their enrollment during a semester. With the approval of the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs or her/his designee, a student may be temporarily excused from classes during a semester due to documented emergency circumstances, such as severe illness or major injury to the student himself, or a similar emergency or death in the student's immediate family. Such a brief absence, wherein a student intends to (and can) return within two weeks to complete all coursework for that semester, constitutes an emergency absence and has no effect on the student's enrollment status. Documentation of the emergency is required.

A student who finds it impossible to return from an emergency absence within two weeks may request an academic leave of absence (see ALOA below) extending for the remainder of the semester. Failure to request an ALOA will result in administrative withdrawal (see below) and the student must apply for readmission.

The interrupted semester will not be counted when determining time limits for satisfactory academic progress. In the case of an ALOA following an emergency absence, students will not be charged tuition twice for the same semester.

ACADEMIC LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ALOA)

The Basic Science segment is scheduled in three semesters per calendar year with short breaks between semesters. A student who needs a longer break between semesters for personal reasons may request an academic leave of absence (ALOA) as outlined below. As a general policy an ALOA will be granted for only one semester, and the student must return in the following semester.

- An ALOA must be requested in writing on the standard form, stating specific reasons and return date, and must be approved by the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs or her/his designee, or the Dean of Clinical Sciences and the University Registrar. The ALOA may only be requested following the end of the semester and the last day of registration of the ALOA semester. An ALOA is not valid until it is fully **processed and recorded** by the University Registrar, and the student has received a confirmation copy. Submission of forms to the University Registrar and confirmations may be conducted by fax. Faxes may be sent to 1-732-978-5306
- During the Basic Science phase, an ALOA can begin only after the completion of a semester, and the student must return at the beginning of the next semester following the completion of the student's ALOA. The ALOA may be renewed, prior to expiration, for an additional semester, based on the circumstances of the request. However, once the ALOA has extended beyond 180 days, you will be reported as withdrawn effective the last day of class attendance.
- During the Clinical Science phase, an ALOA can be taken only at the end of a clinical segment or clerkship, and the student must return to resume clinical clerkships at the time specified.
- During the Clinical Science phase, requirements for an ALOA to prepare for Step 2 will be granted for a period of time not to exceed 6 weeks.

A student who does not return from an ALOA at the specified time will be administratively withdrawn, effective the last day of class attendance. (Note the effect of this on financial aid obligations; see *Ways & Means of Financial Aid*.)

All students returning from an authorized absence (emergency or ALOA) must report to the Campus Registrar or Dean of Clinical Sciences and must pursue the curriculum then in effect. They are subject to all policies that are in force at that time and must pay the current tuition and fees. Similarly, students who defer their enrollment or are readmitted or reinstated to the School after any period of absence are also subject to all policies, tuition and fees then in effect.

UNAUTHORIZED LEAVES

Except for approved emergency absences outlined above, students who leave during a semester or a scheduled clinical clerkship will be administratively withdrawn (see below).

Students wishing to return to the School after an unauthorized leave must apply for readmission. The past performance of these students will be reviewed by the Promotion Committee to determine whether they can be readmitted and, if so, under what conditions, including on academic probation.

WITHDRAWALS

Students who have been withdrawn (by student request or administrative action) must apply for readmission if they wish to return to the School and are subject to the Tuition Policies for

Withdrawals. Such readmission must be reviewed by the Promotions Committee and is not guaranteed. They will be subject to all academic policies and tuition and fees then in effect, without any "grandfathering" provisions based on their original admission.

STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

Students may not withdraw from a single course during a semester; they must withdraw completely from the School. Basic Science students may begin the withdrawal process by obtaining a withdrawal form from the Campus Registrar's Office in Dominica, and appropriate clearances from the Library, Financial Aid Office, and the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs. Such students will receive W, WP, or WF on their transcripts depending on whether they were passing or failing a course at the time of their withdrawal, as specified under the *Student Grading and Promotions Policies* section of this Handbook.

Refunds, if required, will be determined by the last day of attendance in an academically related activity.

Those who received WF in any of their courses at the time of withdrawal will be reviewed by the Promotions Committee to determine whether they are eligible for readmission.

Students who were failing one or more courses at the time of withdrawal will be on academic probation if they are readmitted.

These students will also be on financial aid probation, and will not receive funds to continue if they are still on academic probation in the succeeding semester.

ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWALS

The University Registrar enters an administrative withdrawal in the student's record when any of the following apply. The student:

- Does not return to the campus to register for the following semester and attend classes in Week One of a semester.
- Does not return at the time specified for the end of an approved leave.
- Is not scheduled for a clinical rotation for a period of 30 days or more and has not applied for and received an approved academic leave of absence.

All students who are administratively withdrawn will be reported as withdrawn effective as of the last day they attended classes. The date of withdrawal will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education, if these students had Stafford loans.

DEFERRALS

Prior to the start of classes, students admitted to a specific semester may request to defer their admission to a subsequent semester. This is limited to no more than the next two semesters.

Those who do not begin enrollment during that period are considered to have deactivated their applications and must re-apply for admission. Applications for deferrals must be made to the New Jersey Admissions Office. Students deferring to a future semester must meet all the requirements in effect for that semester.

Entering students who, following their initial registration, wish to defer their enrollment to the following semester may do so through the Dean's Office in Dominica, only during Week One of the semester.

Students who are admitted for a given semester, do not come to the Campus to register for that semester, and do not request a deferral, are considered to have deactivated their applications and must re-apply for admission.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

RUSM may implement a variety of disciplinary actions for non-academic infractions such as, but not limited to theft, vandalism, assault, drug use, animal neglect, or any blatant disregard for school policies, faculty or administrative authority, or professional ethics. These actions are verbal reprimand, letter of reprimand, restitution, suspension, and dismissal.

SUSPENSION

Students may be suspended for a period, during which a student will not be allowed to enroll in classes and may have special requirements to complete prior to returning to his/her academic program. The Dean approves all suspensions.

Suspension during an academic semester does not warrant reduction of tuition and fee charges.

DISMISSAL

Students may be dismissed from the School for poor academic performance, for violation of the Honor Code, and/or for disruptive or unprofessional behavior. As a general School policy, students who are dismissed will not be considered for readmission.

A process for appeal is available to dismissed students.

Suspension during an academic semester does not warrant reduction of tuition and fee charges.

STUDENT HONOR CODE

The student body has developed an Honor Code, with which all students must comply. The Honor Code is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Each student is bound by its provisions and required to sign a written acknowledgement of receipt. Documented failure to do so will result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the School.

Cheating (whether on examinations or with laboratory data), undisclosed knowledge of cheating, stealing (whether from the Library or from fellow students), and plagiarism will not be tolerated and can lead to expulsion from the school.

In the event that a student is accused of acts that are within the jurisdiction of both the Honor Council and the Grievance Committee, then the accused student shall have the right to choose the forum in which he or she will be heard.

STUDENT POLICY ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Ross University has developed a *Student Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs*, with which all students must comply. It attached hereto and incorporated herein.

STUDENT PRIVACY RIGHTS

The University follows the guidelines of the U.S. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which are as follows:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education record within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access.

Students should submit to the University Registrar a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the record may be inspected.

- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write to the University Registrar, clearly identify the part of the record they want corrected, and specify why it is inaccurate.

If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided when the student is notified of the right to a hearing.

- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education record, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an

official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the University may disclose education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The University may disclose directory information upon request. Directory information includes:

- Name, address, telephone listing
- Dates of attendance, degrees and awards
- Field of study
- Most recent previous school attended
- Photographs
- Date and place of birth
- E-mail address

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

THE ANNE ROSS LIBRARY AND RELATED MATTERS

The Anne Ross Library and Learning Resource Center (LRC) strives to be the intellectual center of the Ross University School of Medicine, and provides services, resources, equipment and facilities needed to enhance self-directed learning, support evidence-based medicine, and help students succeed academically.

Students are expected to purchase required textbooks for each course. The Library houses a full range of biomedical books, journals, study aids, audiovisual programs, and computer-assisted instructional materials that supplement the required readings.

Students are required to display their Ross University student identification card to gain entry to the library. The identification card is also required for all Library transactions and services including borrowing books, making photocopies, using multimedia resources and accessing the Internet. The Library is intended for University students, faculty and staff, only. Children are not permitted in the Anne Ross Library & LRC.

During the semester, the Library is open 17 hours per day (7:00 a.m. to midnight) seven days per week. Five days prior to the Mini examinations, and 10 days prior to the final examinations, the Library will be open until 2 AM. There are other facilities on campus that are open 24 hours per day for students who wish to study at odd hours. It is not recommended that students stay up all night to study before exams. There are limited operating hours during breaks and holidays and generally the library will be closed during the weekend following the administration of the Comprehensive Basic Science Examination.

Students are expected to return Library materials on time. Overdue fines are assessed to ensure prompt return of high-use items, and any money collected is donated to the Student Government

Association. Failure to pay fines or return books will affect a student's ability to borrow other materials and may affect the release of final grades.

Eating, drinking or smoking is not permitted in the Library.

Stealing or damaging Library materials, equipment or furniture is a serious offense. Students caught vandalizing, mutilating or stealing Library materials, equipment or furniture, or physically threatening staff members will be suspended immediately pending a hearing that may result in expulsion from the University.

Students are expected to take their notes, books or personal items with them when they leave the Library. At closing time each day, the study tables and carrels will be cleared of all materials.

Students who consistently ignore basic rules of the Library will be identified and warned by the Library staff that will submit a written report to the Executive Dean. The Dean will refer the issue to the Grievance Committee for further action. Students that receive more than three (3) warnings for inappropriate behavior in the Library are subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to being denied access to the library for the rest of the current semester and/or a subsequent semester.

Students are encouraged to make suggestions and express their ideas about Library services, resources and facilities to the Library Director.

MONETARY INSTRUMENTS (STUDENT REFUND CHECKS)

Please note that the United States Department of Customs and Border Patrol have specific rules regarding the transportation of monetary instruments (refund checks, cash, etc...) into and out of the United States.

For more information, please visit the United States Department of Customs and Border Patrol at www.cbp.gov and perform a search for currency reporting.

BANKING IN DOMINICA

Banking can be conducted at two locations in Portsmouth, Barclay's Bank and National Commercial Bank, or at the Scotia Bank in Roseau, as well as at an automatic teller machine (ATM) on campus. Funds are disbursed in EC\$ from the ATM. To use the ATM, students must have an account at National Commercial Bank, to which funds may be transferred through one of the following American banks: Bank of New York, Bank of America, or Nations Bank.

Ross University checks can be cashed immediately at the Scotia Bank and certain other banks. Financial aid checks can also be cashed immediately in part or entirely at certain of the banks. Endorsements by two authorized signatories at the rank of Dean, Vice Dean, or Associate Dean, are required in order to cash checks at Barclay's Bank. However, National Commercial Bank requires only one signature. Ross University checks drawn on Chase Manhattan Bank do not require a Dean's signature to be cashed at the National Commercial Bank.

Students are strongly encouraged to establish banking in the US and Dominica with the appropriate procedures to be able to have electronic transfer of funds to their Dominica account

All banks impose a 30-working day (at least) delay before honoring US\$ personal checks drawn outside Dominica. Banks will cash personal checks in U.S. dollars, without the delay, if they are signed by the Deans as listed above. The most reliable way for students to get money quickly in Dominica is to have an ATM card that will work at Royal Bank of Canada and at Barclay's, or to arrange for the money to be wire transferred. Wire-transferred funds are almost immediately negotiable. Another way of transferring funds is via international money orders. Traveler's checks are usually accepted.

VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards can be used to obtain money in EC currency at the Dominican banks.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS OF FINANCE

Occasionally, while studying in Dominica, students waiting for loan checks may find themselves in financial difficulties. In these circumstances, the Dean of Academic Administration and Student Affairs or her/his designee can authorize a temporary loan of EC\$100.00 per week from local funds for living expenses.

Queries regarding financial aid in general, or about an individual student's loan status, should be channeled through the financial aid representative on campus.

HOUSING IN DOMINICA

There is a reasonable stock of housing and hotels in Portsmouth and this stock is continually improving. The University has a housing officer who is available to assist students in securing appropriate accommodations. Students are urged to follow the recommendations of the housing officer on such matters as written inventories of furnishings, and clear statements on responsibility for property taxes, water, phone, and electricity bills before committing to a rental. Generally, these utilities are more expensive than in the U.S., especially international phone calls. Students sharing flats should also make a written agreement as to individual responsibilities.

VISAS

The government of Dominica requires that all adults entering the country for more than three weeks must have submitted visa applications prior to arrival. Students must remember that they are guests in Dominica, and must observe all immigration rules and local laws. All students are required to possess a return ticket to their normal country of residence and have a valid visa in their passport. If in doubt, students should check with the campus office that handles immigration issues.

Non-resident, non-U.S. citizens may require a visa to enter the U.S. for the Clinical Science segment.

SECURITY

The University employs all possible means to promote the security of its students, maintaining a security force on the campus whose duty it is to preserve order and the safety of the students and

the campus. This security force functions under policies and procedures established by the administration, as well as in response to directives from the administration that may be issued and publicized from time to time. All on- and off-campus incidents must be reported to the security force.

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education requirements, information about security and safety practices, as well as campus crime statistics are published annually. This information is distributed to current students and may be obtained, upon request, by any prospective student.

RUSM in Dominica employs a cadre of security officers to provide 24-hour security to the University, its students, and staff, at the Portsmouth Campus. All security officers have received in-house training, supplemented by formal training at the Dominica Police Training School. Thus, they are capable of providing a high level of professional service.

By and large, most student security problems occur outside the Campus compound, which is generally considered relatively safe. However, while the Island has a relatively low crime rate, students and visitors should still take the same precautions that they would take in major cities in the United States.

Security is also provided for the Ross University Clinical Facility at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Roseau, which is used by students during their clinical assignments and clinical clerkships.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The student body elects class representatives, committee members, and officers for the Student Government Association (SGA) each semester. The SGA is active in coordinating athletic events, supervising the weight room, sponsoring and arranging the social activities on campus, and bringing student problems to the attention of the administration. To be qualified to run for office and to serve as an officer, class representative or on a committee, a student must be a full-time student and be in good academic standing as defined in this *Handbook*. Students who are officers in the SGA are considered leaders and role models for the student body. As such, they will be required to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) above 2.6 prior to election. Those who do not meet this criterion will be asked to resign and another will be appointed or elected to serve.

The Associate Dean Student Affairs and the Director of Campus Life supervise the running of the SGA.

Students are required to pay an SGA fee, which is collected with other student fees. In addition, all late registration fees and library fines go entirely to the SGA.

AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The American Medical Students Association has a chapter at Ross University. The dues of this organization are voluntary. AMSA works with the faculty to select outside speakers for the Research Day held each semester, provides public service opportunities such as health screening activities for the general public, assists in providing health related services for students, and

provides access to the programs of the National Body of AMSA in legislative and other governmental areas.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that reinforced and extended the nondiscrimination concepts of Section 504. Section 504 contains a nondiscrimination provision which provides that a qualified individual with a disability can not be denied participation in a program receiving Federal financial assistance solely on the basis of a disability. Students with a disability defined within the ADA may request an accommodation. The process to do so is as follows;

1. The student must submit to the school appropriate documentation (in compliance with ADA) prior to commencing classes each semester. These are to be submitted to the Director of the Exam Center.
2. All requests will be reviewed via external assessment by a licensed professional who will report his/her opinion to the RUSM Examination Committee that will make a final determination as to the type of accommodation that will be granted.
3. When an accommodation is granted, it is done so for a single semester. Students with ongoing needs must resubmit their request each semester.
4. If the documentation exceeds its time limitation, in accordance with the ADA, it is the students responsibility to resubmit to the school updated documents.

WHEN YOU LEAVE DOMINICA

Please note that students are responsible for all debts in Dominica, whether to the phone company, landlord, Dean's account, or the SGA. While debts to the University remain outstanding, the student may not be allowed to proceed with clinical clerkships or obtain any transcripts from the New Jersey Office. Students must pay all their debts before they leave Dominica. The Dominican laws on debt are strict, and it has happened that students have found themselves in jail for debt.

Each student must find two faculty members to write letters of recommendation. These letters are kept on file for the Dean of Clinical Sciences to use when introducing you to your clinical assignment. These letters are references, not testimonials, and are, therefore, confidential; students may not have copies. It is advisable to check with the Registrar to confirm that your letters are on file.

INTERPRETATION AND MODIFICATION OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

The final arbiter of the interpretation of any regulation in this *Handbook* is the Executive Dean or the President, as appropriate. The University reserves the right to modify, or make changes to any rule or regulation in this handbook. Any change pertaining to the Basic Science campus or changes communicated to enrolled clinical students by the Clinical Science Dean become effective on the first day of the semester, unless otherwise noted in the announcement of the change.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of all regulation in this handbook and any changes or modifications to these regulations.